25th January 1961] [Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam]

4. Setting up of one Special Plant Protection Squad for oil seeds crops at Madurai with financial assistance of the I.C.O C. so that the Campaign can be organised well in advance and carried out immediately on noting the pest incidence;

5. The provisions of Pest Act may be strictly enforced so as not to leave any untreated pockets.

Suggestions of the Collector, Madurai.

6. Full remission may be granted for these growers whose crops have been seriously damaged, i.e., who have less than 4 annas crop;

7. The collection of arrears of all loans from the affected agriculturists may be postponed;

8. Block or Village Committees may be constituted for organising and executing the campaign work;

9. Sale of pesticides at concessional rates and issue of Takkavi loans to the agriculturists for their purchase; and

10. Supply of seeds at half-cost to the ryots during the next sowing season.

The Government have accepted the suggestions in items 1, 2 5 and 8 above and the Director of Agriculture has been asked to implement them.

Regarding the suggestion in item 6 above, Revenue Department have proposed to grant a full dry remission in respect of groundnut crops affected by this pest, where the yield is four annas and below and half dry remission where the yield comes up to 8 annas.

As regard the suggestion in item 7 above, the Revenue Department, in accordance with the suggestions of the Board of Revenue, have proposed not to postpone the collection of loans.

The remaining suggestions in items 3 and 4 above are separately under consideration.

There is now no incidence of caterpillar in the fields. Egg masses are traced after thorough search. The crop is being either harvested or will be harvested in the course of a week. The staff of Agricultural Department and Community Development have been instructed to keep late-sown fields under close watch for the appearance of this pest.

III.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SITTING OF THE HOUSE.

MR. SPEAKER : I want to make an announcement. We meet on the 28th at 10 o'clock in the morning because hon. Members who go to their places would return by train in the morning on that day. So the House will meet on 28th between 10 to 1 and 3 to 5.